

Fashion for Black Still Prevails in Paris and May Be Adopted Here

Tailored Suits Are Not in the Lustrous Color—Capes Are Popular.

By ANNE RITTENHOUSE.

THE fashion for black grows serious. It was established by France during the war for reasons of economy rather than reasons of conservatism, and there was a concerted plan among French women to standardize their apparel, so the American thought. For a year before the armistice and ever since the visitor to France found women in mass wearing clothes reduced to the elements of simplicity. The frock itself was nothing but a chemise without sleeves, without collar, it was not any longer the garment with which we so closely associate the name chemise. A string girdle casually confined the loose frock at the hip line. The hat was black, the stockings were gray or

gray crepe gathered to gray caracul. The cape is unified. The majority of capes trust to a single piece of cloth to do the work.

The black cape appears to have passed the zenith of its glory, unless for sport use, and brightly colored checks of broad blue and beige squares continue to serve in a dashing manner for loose, wide, flowing capes, which are worn in the country or at the seashore. The street cape is a more sedate garment. When it departs from blue, gray or taupe, it is in shades of beige, which is an ornamental belt, a narrow one, slipped about the waistline.

When the coats fasten they do so in the most negligible manner, sometimes with two buttons placed close together at the waistline. The crests are long and conspicuous on these coats. The open skirt is filled in with a ruffled or laced vest of white muslin which often extends out into a high straight collar rolling like a hoop around the neck.

None of these collars is worn over the coat collar. There is no revival of that fashion. Neither is there a tendency to wear a round-necked

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believe and the slippers black. Women dressed in this fashion passed before the eyes from Bordeaux to Boulogne with the monotony of a frieze.

When gaiety replaced grief the women added the jewels of the Arabian Nights to this foundation of black. The arms were covered with glittering bracelets. The neck was draped with beads, precious and semi-precious; each French woman seemed to have become Shalimar and discovered a hidden niche of jewels.

Too much for the French. They left little to the imagination in such costumes. Few women were strikingly individual. The tilt of a hat and another jewel added to the collection made the only note of departure from the standardized costume.



noon and morning frocks rather than on evening ones.

From what source came the detached ornamental aprons? They are here in full power. The mannequin walks down the aisle wearing a white crepe de chine frock apparently trimmed with Spanish flounces and black lace and a stridle of black ribbons. Halfway down the aisle she unties the girdle, removes the ornamental apron of lace and reveals her dress in a chemise frock in plain white. Curious trick. It seems to pervade the dress-making houses. The mannequin drops capes to reveal frocks. They drop aprons and appear in bodorized garments. They step out of skirts, let the public discover that their petticoats are of silver lace.

To these detachable aprons there is no end. They are not always of lace. They appear on a simple morning frock of dead black crepe de chine. They will start as a fitted yoke at the waistline, with long long at intervals, these loops turn up at the hem to form slings. Again they will start as a string girdle and drop in panels of acordion pleating at the hem of the skirt. The mannequin always removes them halfway down the room.

The fashion instantly started a thought of economy among women. Why not have several of these aprons built to rejuvenate one piece frock that is a bit the worse for wear or of whose simplicity one may be a bit weary?

With aprons and gowns that can be put off and on, one really has very little use for more than one or two chemise frocks. These serve as the foundation of the wardrobe.

Show No Change in Colors.

France evidently liked this sort of thing. Her women are still wearing black. As the spring breaks they show no change of change in color. They appear to be wedded to the shadow-like frocks and hats. If rumor is true that the smart women are beginning to stop the use of white cosmetics on their faces, then the change from black to colors may begin. It was the excessive contrast between a face whitened like that of a clown with scarlet lips painted to express any expression and the dead black gowns that thrilled the French sense of artistry. If they give up the white faces and the red lips they will find the black to not so alluring. The importance of this fashion strikes home to the American because it has arrived on this shore fully armed for conquest.

What will we do about it? Is the question of the hour. The dressmakers have taken sides. Some have brought over very few of these grief stricken frocks. Such, and they are the ones who dress the conspicuous set who lead fashion even when it is not always good, offered the new French gowns in this lustrous color. Those that have these frocks for sale say the American woman will be glad to forsake color. Those who will not touch them say the American woman is not physically built to carry off dead black.

One thing seems to be true: It will be necessary for the majority to whiten the face and redden the lips in the French manner if they are to attempt to be smart and conspicuous in their new black costumes.

It is not necessary to offer this use of cosmetics to the average American girl. She has the whitened face and the reddened lips. She adopted the whiteness three years ago, and there are times when she comes perilously near looking like a clown.

It would be hard on the woman who does not make up and who has slight coloring of her own. She would be wise to run from black as she would from the rain. It will drizzle out of her whatever personality she may possess.

It is quite probable that American women in mass will use more makeup than ever if black gowns become ubiquitous. The influence of Spanish fashions tends to the use of cosmetics and the use of black, but if Americans are really to study the costume of Spain and imitate it in even a slight degree they will find the colored staid and the red from necessary adjuncts to silliness.

Tailored Suits Not in Black.

A varying proportion of lustrous black gowns reflects against the conservative giving a woman a chance to define herself in this fashion every hour of the day unless she happens to prefer the rejuvenated tailored suit for the street. She will rarely get this in black. Strange that the fashion should have slipped this one costume.

The average woman would choose black for her suit quicker than she would for her frock. This season that choice must be reversed. Dark blue comes back into fashion through the medium of the coat and skirt, but covert coat and beige flannel and other colors and fabrics with the same lack of originality are offered for the new spring coats and skirts. And with them there is a return to the white waist blouse. As fashion still insists upon coats being kept on and not removed in public, the blouse may divide down to a vest and collar of white organdie or handkerchief linen. Lace is rarely used. Not expected to have vanished from the

Panel of Pleated Organdie.

The skirt, which has an accordion pleating all around has vanished from the first ranks of fashion. The woman who possesses one or more of these long skirts is discouraged. If she has the courage of her convictions she will continue to wear them. They slenderize the figure. The pleated skirt is taboo. The only kind of pleating that is fashionable seems to have been given over by a steam roller. It is so soft and fine that it seems to have been woven in the material. It is used in panels, and such panels are plentiful. They do not appear above the waist, but they contribute a quota of success to the majority of day time skirts.

If the American continent is going to accept a multitude of inky black gowns without color attached there must be a quantity of pleating and applications of points and fringes, of girdles and headbands to redeem the plainness. It is quite evident from the exhibitions of French and American clothes that all these accessories will be in constant use this season. Some women use up all of them at once, and the fact is not over-elaborate. As the fabric is fine and no color arises to clash against the eye, one does not get a full realization of the handiwork employed on the gown until it is handled in the hands.

When women were told that embroidery had disappeared because its price put a burden upon the frock, they were foolish enough to believe that the cost of gowns would be lessened. Woe is mine. The amount of things that the dressmakers substitute for embroidery would fill a Congressional Record.

Room Enough for Capes.

The woman who has a single track mind will ask what is to become of her capes if she is to go back into tailored suits. The answer is that she can wear them. There is room enough in our bodies for all manner of apparel. The capes are worn over suit coats, if the truth be known. There is nothing in the way of the new jacket and skirt to guarantee that it will be worn enough on chilly days and for all climates. The cape is a graceful adjunct and when it is attached to a shoulder band of fur is equally invaluable. There are capes for formal frocks made of fur, and capes for informal frocks made of silk. For instance, one gray frock in town carries a Paris cape of

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BACON REPEATEDLY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

Frau von Kunow in Berlin Lecture Claims to Have Proof.

Special Correspondent of The New York Herald.

LONDON, April 6.—The assertion that Francis Bacon was the son of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester was repeated in an original document at the Shakespeare Research Society by Frau Deventer von Kunow, according to a Berlin despatch to the London Times.

Frau von Kunow said that her evidence was based on an original document in the possession of the record office in London and on facts that have been jealously guarded by the British authorities, the words "In London" which go on to say "The alleged document purports to establish definitely that Bacon was the son of Queen Elizabeth and Leicester. The marriage between Queen and Robert Dudley is said to have taken place on January 11, 1561, at Lord Pembroke's residence before a number of witnesses.

"The son of this marriage was to have been destroyed at birth, but Ann Bacon, wife of Nicholas Bacon, keeper of the Great Seal, begged for the child's life. The Queen reluctantly consented on condition that Nicholas Bacon and his wife should take oath never to reveal the child's origin. The secret, however, apparently was not kept, as a maid of honor was forced to bear a child, who was, whereupon she and sixteen others were executed."

The boy grew up under the name of Francis Bacon, being told of his origin by his foster parents when he was sixteen years old. The document is said further to show that the birth of the boy was registered only with the date of his birth and the words "In London" although after his death the words "In the House of York" were added. Frau von Kunow also cites a document to prove that a second child was born to the couple, which was also named Francis Bacon, and that Francis Bacon and Robert Earl of Essex were brothers.

To this despatch the Times adds the following: "The officials of the Record Office state that they are inclined to regard Frau von Kunow's story as a canard. Her statement that her evidence is based on an original document in the possession of the Record Office in London and on facts that have been jealously guarded by British authorities is difficult to controvert in the absence of any reference to the document in any of the records. But if the document referred to was hitherto in the Record Office it would be there now, and its existence is quite unknown to the chief officials of that department.

"Frau von Kunow, it will be noted, does not state how she became possessed of the information on which she founded her lecture. Presumably she did not obtain it at first hand, because her name does not appear in the list of holders of students' tickets at the Record Office since 1911.

"The Record Office points out that it is not concerned with concocting historical truth, but, rather, the contrary; and it seems inconceivable that if a document existed, such as Frau von Kunow alleges, it would not have been discovered by students of the Elizabethan period and discussed by generations of historians."

HIGH WAISTLINE TENDENCY.

There is a tendency among the French designers to obliterate the necessity for a separate blouse in a coat suit by carrying the skirt to the bust line and making yoke and sleeves of thin fabric. This is an old-fashioned idea, but the world about twenty years ago. It is time for it to be revived. The majority of American women object to the one-piece frock in a thick warm fabric because of the heat of our shops and houses and all covered places; they prefer a thin fabric over the body above the waist. The separate blouse has met with long life at intervals; these loops turn up at the hem to form slings. Again they will start as a string girdle and drop in panels of acordion pleating at the hem of the skirt. The mannequin always removes them halfway down the room.

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Beauty Culture Hints.

There is real common sense in just noticing whether the hair is well kept to judge of a woman's neatness, or good taste. If you are one of the few who try to make the most of your hair, remember that it is not advisable to wash the hair with any cleanser made for all purposes, but always use some good shampoo. You can enjoy the very best by getting this season's new shampoo. It is a new kind of shampoo, and it is not over-elaborate. As the fabric is fine and no color arises to clash against the eye, one does not get a full realization of the handiwork employed on the gown until it is handled in the hands.

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BRILLIANT EVENTS OF THE WOMEN'S CLUBS

Continued from Second Page.

Lyman Otis was adopted providing for a revolving fund, which means making it possible for a soldier to go to Washington and get his compensation, having back his expenses to the league on his receipt, and then giving that return to another soldier to finance his going to Washington on the same mission, making an endless chain of aid to service men.

To provide funds for immediate relief to soldiers and their families a vaudeville entertainment will be held at the Apollo Theatre on the afternoon of May 10, and carnival and fete May 13 and 20 at the Twelfth Regiment Armory.

Emerson Alumni Club, Mrs. Leslie T. Arvidson, president, held its last meeting of the season on Saturday of last week in the rooms of the Twelfth Night Club, 47 West Forty-fourth street. There was a program of music by R. A. Augustine, pianist, and Arthur Bergens, baritone. Mrs. George Galpin, a graduate of Emerson College and professor of speaking and economics in New Haven, gave an interesting talk on her work.

Mrs. James Graydon Wentz was re-elected president of the Woman's Republican Club on Tuesday at the meeting held at the Plaza. The other officers elected were Mrs. Charles H. Peniston, first vice-president; Mrs. J. Lee, second vice-president; Mrs. Percy S. Boynton, third vice-president; Mrs. Frederick Thompson, fourth vice-president; Mrs. Edith Morgan, treasurer; Mrs. George Galpin, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Albert H. Gleason, chairman of the executive committee; Mrs. John M. Soble, chairman of the finance committee; and Mrs. William Van Name and G. E. Tobey, directors.

The annual election and reports will be given by officers and chairmen of standing committees. Mrs. William H. Hamilton, vice-president of the Navy Club, and a member of the Illinois Society, will speak on "When Parents Are a Handicap."

Portia Club, Mrs. Edward Allen Albright, president, will hold its annual election of officers on Thursday at the Hotel Astor. At the club's meeting on April 7 "The Marriage Laws in the Various States of America" will be the subject for discussion. The speakers were Mrs. Penfield, Mrs. Griswold Wentz and Dr. Anna Hochfelder.

Mrs. Mollie Wilkinson, Republican leader of the Second Assembly District, will give a luncheon and bridge to-morrow at the Hotel Marcellus for the New Yorkers, Mrs. Olive Scott Gabriel president.

Following the dinner of the Galaxy Club on Thursday at the Hotel Marcellus, Mrs. Philip Morris gave a dramatic scene, "Madame Rachel in Her Dressing Room." Mr. Andre Tridon spoke on Psychology. Miss Rosa Linda, soprano, sang a group of songs. Miss Maudie Carson, a local poet and playwright, was heard in some of her own compositions. The entertainment was followed by dancing. The club will have another dinner on Thursday.

"An Afternoon of Reminiscence of Sorosis Members and Events" will be held to-morrow at the Waldorf-Astoria by the Sorosis Club, Mrs. John Lewis Childs president. The late members for whom this memorial meeting will be held were Miss M. Dietz, Mrs. L. Leeper, Eleanor J. Dow, Mary Wright Sewall and Mary Abba Newton.

The New York branch of the Needlework Guild of America, with offices at 42 West Thirty-third street, gave its annual luncheon on Friday at the Hotel Marcellus. The New York branch distributed 3,000 new garments and articles of household linen to local charities last November, and 100,000 must be obtained next fall to supply the great need. "Two new garments a year" is the price of membership, which is open to all. The guests of honor at the luncheon were Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, national president; Miss Rosamond K. Bender, national executive secretary, and Mrs. John Wood Stewart, founder of the guild in America and chairman during the war of the War Relief Committee.

Legislative League, Mrs. Thomas Black president, held its April meeting on Thursday at the Waldorf-Astoria. It was nomination day for officers for the annual election in May. During the parliamentary drill Mrs. J. Hodge Crowell presided. The speakers of the afternoon were Miss Ada Sterling, author of "Mary, Queen of Scots," and Mr. Royal J. Davis of the Citizens' Union. During the afternoon an appeal was made by Mrs. William G. Demarest for the fund for disabled soldiers. She is chairman of the Auxiliary Committee of the National Emergency Club.

At the business meeting of the Childs Women's Club, Mrs. Walter H. Gahagan president, on Monday, at the Waldorf-Astoria, Mrs. L. W. Seeliger was elected first vice-president, Mrs. H. C. Henig recording secretary, Mrs. W. McMullan auditor and Mrs. C. A. Dresser and Mrs. F. Logie directors. The club has taken a ward at Fox Hills Hospital to care for the disabled soldiers. Mrs. J. W. Barnhart is the chairman of the work. New members received into the club are Mrs. Jane Redfield Vose, Claire Stevens, Stanley Smythe, H. P. Briand and M. M. Griswold.

The Society of American Fakirs, composed of the artists who have gained fame and those less fortunate, will hold the annual fair dance in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Commodore on Friday evening to inaugurate a ten days appeal in which it is planned to complete the university's \$3,000,000 endowment campaign.

Nearly 500 alumni of Wesleyan University, residents of New York city and its vicinity, gathered at dinner in the east ballroom at the Hotel Commodore on Friday evening to inaugurate a ten days appeal in which it is planned to complete the university's \$3,000,000 endowment campaign.

The Woman's Democratic Club held its annual Jefferson dinner last Sunday evening at the Hotel Commodore. Mrs. George H. Childs, the president, presided. Among the speakers were Mr. J. H. Banton, Assistant District Attorney; Mrs. Katherine A. Martin, Mrs. Simon Harsh, Mrs. Charles D. Hirst, Mrs. Elizabeth Marbury and Mrs. George E. Owens. Mrs. Frances A. Abraham was chairman of the dinner committee.

St. Nicholas Council, Knights of Columbus, held an entertainment and dance on Thursday evening at the Hotel Biltmore. Artists of the musical and theatrical world contributed to the program and there was a chorus of fifty voices. The proceeds from the event will be used for the clubhouse, which the Knights hope to open in the autumn.

Dr. Ethelbert D. Warfield, president of Wilson College; Dr. Katherine B. Davis, executive secretary of the Bureau of Social Hygiene; and Mrs. Walter S. Conly, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, will be among the speakers at the annual luncheon of Wilson College on Saturday at the Hotel Astor. Mrs. Alphonse C. Koebler is chairman of the luncheon, which is in honor of Miss Sally Wilson, founder of the college.

The North Carolina Society of New York will give a supper and dance at the Waldorf-Astoria on Wednesday evening, April 27. Among those who will serve as patronesses are Misses George Gordon Battle, Frank L. Puler, Charles Backerville, William B. Pritchard, Junius Parker and Albert Massey.

The Cathedral Alumni Society will hold its twenty-first annual dinner at the Commodore on Wednesday evening.

A concert and dance will be given by the Tufts College Glee and Mandolin Club at the Hotel Commodore to-morrow evening under the patronage of the Tufts College Alumni and the Oral Hygiene Committee of Greater New York. The proceeds from the concert are to be devoted to the cause of dentistry, which will be divided between the Oral Hygiene Committee to further its work in the Public Schools of New York city, the remaining half to constitute the nucleus of a fund to establish a chair of preventive dentistry at Tufts College. The organized dental societies of New York are supporting the movement.

Mrs. Henry Clark Cox will give a luncheon on Tuesday in honor of Mrs. Ralph Trautman, Mrs. Belle de Iruya and Mrs. A. M. Palmer. A general outline of the woman's national club house will be discussed and the most effective way to make the new proposition a real clubwoman's home.

The annual dance of the freshmen of Manhattan College will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania on Friday evening.

To discuss plans for summer activities the women's division of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies held a meeting on Thursday

evening at the home of Mr. Adolph Lewisohn, 881 Fifth avenue. Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, first vice-president of the federation, who is chairman of the division, outlined a programme of work in which the women will engage during their stay at summer resorts. There were also addresses by other officers of the federation.

The National Education Forum, Dr. Winifred Sackville Stoner, president, invited all child welfare workers to hear lectures on this subject by Mr. John Barrett, first director of the Pan-American Union, and Col. James Buchanan Stoner, surgeon, United States Public Health Service. The forums are held on Thursday afternoons in the Auditorium, 6 East Thirty-ninth street.


Life as a Fine Art Club held its last lecture in a series on Wednesday at the Hotel Commodore. Mrs. Mildred Mandy Banton, the president, was the speaker. Mrs. Walter H. Gahagan sang a group of songs, and Mrs. Charles E. Hatch spoke on current events. The guests of honor included Mrs. A. M. Palmer, Mrs. E. O. Daly, Mrs. Stanley Lyman Otis and Mrs. Charles D. Hirst.

"Erepsichorean Night" will be held by the University Forum of America Tuesday evening at the headquarters of the club, 203 West Ninety-third street. Alexander Cumming will give an illustrated talk on "The Elements of Ballroom Dancing."

Mrs. Walter S. Conly was re-elected president of the Daughters of Pennsylvania in New York at their annual meeting last Tuesday at the Waldorf-Astoria. Other officers were elected as follows: Second vice-president, Mrs. John M. Gallagher; recording secretary, Mrs. J. J. Kelly; treasurer, Mrs. Meredith Love. Directors, Mrs. Charles E. Gahagan, Mrs. George Evans, Mrs. Frederick Tench and Mrs. J. Cashman.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lord will give an informal reception at their home, 270 Park avenue, on Saturday afternoon. They recently returned from Camden, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Blum have opened their country home, Shore Acres, at Bay Shore, L. I., for the summer.



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